CHICKASAW TIMES

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2009 - 2010 Chickasaw Princess Candidates

Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Tisha Cully
Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Jessie Miller
Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Catie Newport
Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Jodi Turtle
Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Junior Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Autumn Underwood
Junior Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

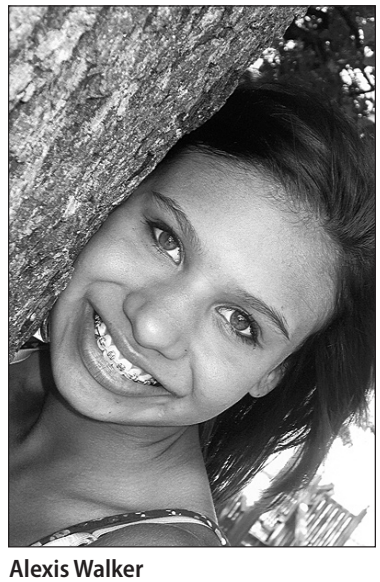
Little Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Cheyanne Arkansas
Little Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Maegan Carney
Little Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Lauren John
Little Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Raechell Meely
Little Miss Chickasaw
Candidate



Alexis Walker
Junior Miss Chickasaw
Candidate

Chickasaw royalty to be crowned Sept. 28 at 2009-2010 Chickasaw Princess Pageant

Everyone is invited to enjoy wonderful presentations and performances by a number of exceptional young Chickasaw ladies during this year's Chickasaw Princess Pageant.

Chickasaw royalty for 2009-2010 will be crowned at the pageant, set for Monday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m., at the Ada High School Cougar Activity Center in Ada.

Contestants will present in the talent, traditional Chickasaw dress, written essay, interviewing skills, random questioning, and poise categories.

The new royalty will have the honor and privilege of representing the Chickasaw Nation at various functions and events across the country.

The 2008-2009 Chickasaw royalty who will be retiring their crowns are Miss Chickasaw Princess Karla Lane; Junior Miss Chickasaw Ju-

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The Chickasaw Times
Post Office Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821

Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Tisha Cully

Tisha Cully

Tisha Michelle Cully is the 22-year-old daughter of William Gaines, Jr., and Barbara Cully. She is a junior at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Miss Chickasaw Princess"

As a young woman, there are many reasons why I would like to be crowned Miss Chickasaw Princess. It has always been a dream of mine to become the ideal role model to show what it is like to be a proud Chickasaw Princess.

As a young girl I would often see the many beautiful young women who held the prestigious title and would dream of one day following in their footsteps. These young women helped shape the way I think today in wanting to do better for myself and my tribe.

Becoming the next generation's role model is only part of following in past crown's footsteps. In running for this title I am taking a step towards not only reaching out to strong young girls but also teaching them no dream is too big to achieve. You only have to believe in yourself first and take charge of every action in making your dream possible.

Finally, the most important reason is to keep my culture alive by showing others that our heritage is something we should all be proud to represent. Contrary to belief I whole-heartedly believe it is not dying as long as there are young people who still are proud to call themselves Chickasaws-the Unconquered and Unconquerable.

These are just a few of reasons why I, Tisha Cully, want to be the next Miss Chickasaw Princess.

Jessie Miller

Jessie Miller

Jessie Mae Miller is the 19-year-old daughter of Jeffrey Miller and Shannon Russell Treat. She is a sophomore at East Central University, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Miss Chickasaw Princess"

I would like to be Chickasaw Princess because I want to represent the Chickasaw Nation with pride. I think that I could show whomever I come in contact with that I am proud to be Chickasaw. Through our interaction, my hope is that they would want to know more about our people.

Being proud of who you are, and especially being proud of where you came from is very important to me. That is why I am trying to learn the Chickasaw language from my grandma, Suzanne Russell. I am proud that she still speaks our language. I want to learn the Chickasaw language and teach it to the kids I work with in Head Start and as an elementary teacher.

I have always tried to make my mom proud of me in everything I do, from singing at church to getting good grades in school. As the Chickasaw Princess, I will do what it takes to help other Chickasaw children gain that same desire. To try their best in everything they do, to be a good role model and be a good citizen to other people in their community.

Being Chickasaw I know that I can do what I want if I believe in myself.

Catie Newport

Catie Newport

Catie Jill Newport is the 17-year-old daughter of Steve and Drucilla Decoteau Jacob. She is a senior at Ada High School.

"Why I would like to be Miss Chickasaw Princess"

Today's children are the future of humanity. Chickasaw children need to have someone they can look up to. That individual needs to have good morals, be hard working, and have great pride in their native culture.

I am that individual. I want to impact the lives of the people that I meet along my journey. I want to show children that it is possible to live an amazing life without becoming involved in drugs or alcohol in order to be successful. They can look at my life and see that it is possible to stay focused on the right path with the help of the Chickasaw Nation.

Because the Nation has such empowering programs that support my activities in school, sports, and future career aspirations, I know I am going to be a future leader. This great opportunity, representing the Nation as their Miss Chickasaw princess, will be the closing chapter in my high school journey. With the support and encouragement from friends and family, I will strive to be once again an example of a strong Chickasaw leader.

If chosen to reign again as princess, I will fulfill every duty and honor to the fullest of my abilities. I will strive to work as a team with the other Chickasaw royalty. Together, as empowered youth, we can make a difference. I have learned so much from being a princess in the past, and would be honored to retain the crown again.

Jodi Turtle

Jodi Turtle

Jodi Kae Turtle is the 23-year-old daughter of Troy and Caren Parnacher Turtle. She is a junior at East Central University, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Miss Chickasaw Princess"

Hello,

My name is Jodi Kae Turtle. I am a junior at East Central University, where I am majoring in kinesiology.

My most recent accomplishment has been to get back into college because I came to realize that an education is going to help make my future goals and dreams come true.

Another accomplishment has been to obtain good grades. I have a passion for working with young people which is where I hope to use my degree some day.

My current interests are playing independent softball, listening to different types of music and spending time with family and friends. I am also enjoying trying new things like this competition.

My mom and dad are Caren "Parnacher" Turtle and Troy Turtle. My poppa and grandma are Lloyd Parnacher and the late Elouise Shoemaker Parnacher. I am the oldest child of three children. My sister is Sonnie Turtle and my brother is Levi Turtle. I also have a gorgeous nephew named Shay.

In thinking about why I would like to be the Chickasaw Princess. I feel like I would be an exceptional role model for our Chickasaw youth as well as to other Native Americans. As a role model, I can draw from both good and bad life experiences to help encourage other youth who might have to face what I faced in my life. I can show that those experiences helped grow me into the person I am and helped me find myself.

I have quality leadership skills, too, that will help me represent my Chickasaw Tribe the best I can. My leadership skills are demonstrated in being a youth leader in church, in my family relationships, in my community, on and off the softball fields and basketball courts. I put a lot of emphasis on my athletic abilities because that's where I have been most successful. It most certainly helped me to pursue an education and I will someday use my abilities to "follow my dreams."

I strongly believe in the quotes, "follow your dreams" and "make the most of any given situation that you might find yourself in," because my life is credited to the One who made All things possible, that's … God. My life motto is "Be brave…and just live with no regrets." So far that's how I live my life…with no regrets.

Junior Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Autumn Underwood

Autumn Underwood

Autumn Michelle Underwood is the 15-year-old daughter of Michael Underwood and Loraine Hamilton Weems. She is in the ninth grade at Latta High School.

"Why I would like to be Junior Miss Chickasaw Princess"

I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess because I'm proud to be a Chickasaw! As a young Chickasaw lady this is one way that I can show the public that I'm proud of who I am and where I come from. It would give me the opportunity to represent my tribe in many different venues.

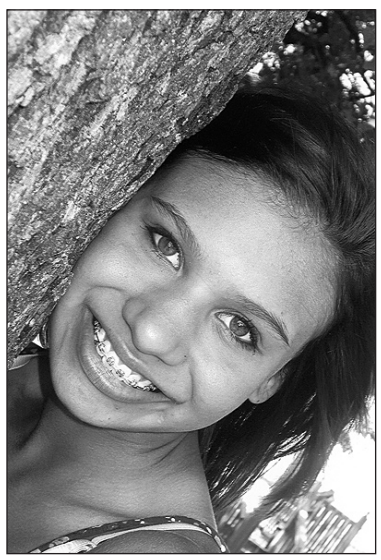
Being Junior Princess would be a great learning experience for me, and give me the opportunity to meet new people and show everyone that I'm proud of my heritage and teach others what I've been taught.

Being Junior Princess would give me the opportunity to learn more about my own tribe and listen to experiences of others. That is how traditions are passed down from generation to generation is listening to others and passing our stories down to others. This would be a great honor for my family and me.

Thank you for your consideration,

Autumn Underwood

Alexis Walker



Alexis Walker

Alexis Olivia Walker is the 13-year-old daughter of Darrell and Johnna Ellis Walker. She is in the eighth grade at Ada Junior High School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Junior Miss Chickasaw Princess"

Chukma! My name is Alexis Walker. I am 13-years old and in the eighth grade at Ada Junior High School. I enjoy reading, science, softball, basketball and track. My parents are Darrell and Johnna Walker, and I have one sister, Nacobi, and one brother, Dylan.

What does being Junior Miss Chickasaw mean to me? I think being Junior Miss Chickasaw means being a role model for young girls, representing the unconquered and unconquerable Chickasaw Nation – as well as my Lord – to the best of my abilities, and learning more about my culture.

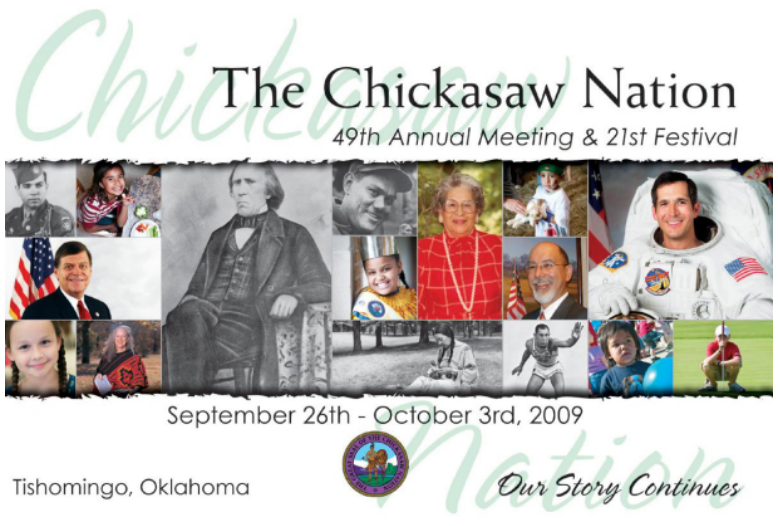
The Chickasaw Princess program is very important because we have princesses helping to put a positive spotlight on our culture for the youth; especially since we are the future generation and it's up to us to keep the Chickasaw Nation strong when we get older.

I enjoyed my time as the 2007-2008 Little Miss Chickasaw, and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve as the 2009-2010 Junior Miss Chickasaw.

I learned so much about my culture and the Chickasaw language, and it also gave me the chance to meet new people and make new friends, learn about other tribes, become more confident with public speaking and represent my people.

Once again, thank you for this blessed opportunity!

'Our Story Continues' theme of this year's Annual Meeting, Festival


The Chickasaw Nation
49th Annual Meeting & 21st Festival
September 26th - October 3rd, 2009
Tishomingo, Oklahoma
Our Story Continues

"Our Story Continues" during the 49th Annual Meeting of the Chickasaw Nation and the 21st Annual Chickasaw Festival, which kicks off Saturday, Sept. 26 and culminates October 3.

"Our Story Continues" is the theme of this year's event. The theme reflects the Chickasaw Nation's proud history and bright future.

"Our culture and history come to life for all Chickasaws and our neighbors during the Annual Meeting and Festival," said Governor Bill Anoatubby.

Activities and events which celebrate Chickasaw heritage, history and traditions will be featured at different venues throughout the Chickasaw Nation, including the cities of Tishomingo and Ada, the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur and WinStar Golf Course in Thackerville.

Gov. Anoatubby will deliver the State of the Nation address during the Annual Meeting 9 a.m. Saturday, October 3 at Fletcher Auditorium on the campus of Murray State College in Tishomingo ***(see related story this page)***.

Immediately following the address, Tishomingo's Main Street will be the scene of the Festival Parade, one of the largest parades in the area, including high school bands and organizations from across the state.

A Chickasaw traditional meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. on the Murray State College lawn. A health fair will also begin at 11:30.

A petting zoo, children's activities and a "make-and-take" tent will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Tishomingo's Pennington Park. Horseshoe Tournament registration begins at noon at the park, and arts and crafts and food vendors will be located at the park from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Stickball, Chickasaw Dance Troupe and cultural demonstrations will be conducted on the west side of the Chickasaw Nation Capitol grounds, along with a Gospel Singing from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The day will end with the Johnston County Riding Club Rodeo at the Tishomingo Tee Pee Arena, beginning at 8 p.m.

Several activities, including the annual Junior Olympics, Golf Tournament and Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball Tournament, kick off the week-long celebration Saturday, Sept. 26. The Junior Olympics, where little ones compete in several fun track and field events, begins at 9 a.m., at the Tishomingo High School Football Field.

Golf Tournament registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and play begins at 9 a.m. at WinStar Golf Course, Thackerville. The Softball Tournament begins at 9 a.m. at the Murray State Col-

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State of the Nation address live online

A live audio stream of the Chickasaw Nation "State of the Nation" address by Governor Bill Anoatubby will be available on the Chickasaw Nation Web site.

The address will be delivered 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3 in the Fetcher Auditorium on the Murray State College campus in Tishomingo, Okla.

To listen to the live stream of the address, log onto the Chickasaw Nation Web site home page at www.chickasaw.net. Then click on the link to the State of the Nation audio stream.

Computer users may use either Adobe Flash Player or Java to listen to the streaming audio. Adobe Flash Player may be downloaded free of charge at the following link: http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/.

Java may be downloaded at the following address:

http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp

Blackberry users can download applications to listen to the stream at one of the following addresses:

http://www.dollars5.com/plete/blackberry/mediaplayer-for-blackberry-pearl-8100/

or

http://www.shapeservices.com/en/products/details.php?product=xplayer&platform=bb

Those wishing to listen on an iPhone or iTouch may access the Internet address below:

http://KCNP.streamon.fm/listen.m3u

Little Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Cheyanne Arkansas

Cheyanne Arkansas

Cheyanne Meagan Arkansas is the eight-year-old daughter of Michael and Margie Brown Arkansas. She is in the third grade at Tishomingo Elementary School, Tishomingo, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess"

It would be an absolute honor to represent my tribe as little Miss Chickasaw. I shall do the very best of my ability to represent the Chickasaw Nation. To hold such an title would be a humbling experience and I would be proud to uphold and have the privilege to represent the "Unconquered and Unconquerable Chickasaw people." I am very proud of my heritage and culture and have the desire to learn more about my language, so I can be able to share it with others.

I am on the Chickasaw Honor Roll, the Superintendent's Honor Roll, and a member of the Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Club.

The greatest accomplishment in our dreams are there if we involve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you,
Cheyanne Arkansas

Maegan Carney

Maegan Carney

Maegan Ann Carney is the 10-year-old daughter of Richard and Angie Underwood Carney. She is in the fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary, Ardmore, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess"

Halito!

My name is Maegan Carney and I am 25/32 Chickasaw. I am the daughter of Richard and Angie Carney, of Ardmore. The granddaughter of Sam and Mary Underwood, of Sulphur, Okla., and the granddaughter of the late Era Mae Carney, formerly of Ardmore.

I am in the fifth grade and attend Ardmore Public Schools. I am involved in the Chickasaw Dance Troupe, the Chickasaw Nation Youth Choir, Ardmore GOALS Soccer League, the Native American Dream Catchers Club and a member of the Ardmore Indian Baptist Church. I have happily served as Little Miss Princess for the Native American Dream Catchers in 2006 and 2007. As a member of the JOM Dream Catchers club, I share stomp dancing, powwow dancing, sign language, and Choctaw hymns with other students in area schools and I like doing it.

I went to the first Chickasaw Language Family Immersion camp this year and I learned a lot and had a lot of fun. I would like to learn more about my Chickasaw heritage and language, so that I could share what I learn with other children. I would be honored to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess and I would do my best to proudly represent the Chickasaw Nation.

Lakoke,
Maegan Carney

Lauren John

Lauren John

Lauren Elizabeth John is the seven-year-old daughter of Thomas and Lisa John. She is in the second grade at Hayes Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess"

My name is Lauren John. I am seven-years old. I want to be Chickasaw Princess because I am proud to be Chickasaw.

I want to tell about how great it is to be Chickasaw. I think being Chickasaw Princess is fun. I also like crowns.

Thank you,
Lauren

Raechell Meely

Raechell Meely

Raechell Paige Meely is the eleven-year-old daughter of Mitchell Meely and Paula Wallace Thomas. She is in the sixth grade at Sulphur Junior High School, Sulphur, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess"

My name is Raechell Meely. I'm eleven-years old. When I was younger I would dream about being a princess and then I received a letter from the Chickasaw Nation saying I could enter the Chickasaw Princess Pageant. It's been about two or three years and I don't want to be a regular princess, I want to be the Little Miss Chickasaw Princess.

PRINCESS PAGEANT | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lie Underwood; and Little Miss Chickasaw Chelsea Wedlow. These young ladies have represented their tribe very well during their reigns.

Chickasaw Princess participants are ages 17 to 25; Chickasaw Junior Princess, 12 to 16; and Little Miss Chickasaw, seven to 11. This year's Chickasaw Princess candidates are Tisha Cully, Jessie Miller, Catie Newport and Jodi Turtle.

In the Chickasaw Junior Princess category, the participants are Autumn Underwood and Alexis Walker.

Little Miss Chickasaw participants are Cheyanne Arkansas, Maegan Carney, Lauren John and Raechell Meely.

All royalty participants are required to be residents of the Chickasaw Nation and have a minimum one-quarter Chickasaw blood quantum.

Chickasaw royalty hopefuls are also required to write an essay, and submit three letters of reference.

The heritage of the princesses goes back to 1963 when Ranell (James) Harry, daughter of former Chickasaw Governor Overton James, was appointed the first princess.

Everyone is welcome to attend the pageant, and no ticket is required.

For more information, contact Phyllis Avanzini at (580) 272-5508 or phyllis.avanzini@chickasaw.net

ANNUAL MEETING AND FESTIVAL | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

lege Sports Complex.

A wide variety of exciting events and activities will be conducted throughout the Chickasaw Nation the week of the festival.

Chickasaw Museum tours, cultural demonstrations and children's activities will be conducted Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Tishomingo.

The Chickasaw Nation Princess Pageant will take place 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28 at the Ada Cougar Activity Center on the campus of Ada High School. Three Chickasaw young ladies will begin their reigns as 2009-2010 Chickasaw royalty.

The Arts and Culture Awards will be presented 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29 at the new McSwain Theatre in Ada. The Chickasaw Senior Olympics will be conducted 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tishomingo's Pennington Park Thursday, Oct. 1.

Cultural Day at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, begins 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2. Lunch will be served at the Aaimpa Café and a "Behind the Scenes" film will be presented at the Anoli Theater. "Pearl" will be shown in the theater at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Storytelling, hymns and the Living History Players will be presented at the Amphitheater from 11:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. and cultural demonstrations will take place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Traditional Village. Chickasaw artist Mike Larsen's portraits of Chickasaw elders will be exhibited from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Aattifama Room.

The evening bell will chime at 5:15 p.m. for dinner service at the Traditional Village.

A complete listing of events, locations and schedules is available online at www.chickasaw.net. For more information, contact the Chickasaw Festival office at (580) 371-2040 or 1-(800) 593-3356.